

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 18 stand of record in the case.

Claims 1 to 18 stand rejected.

Explanation of Amendments in the Claims:

1.(currently amended)A wheelchair lift apparatus for attachment to an automobile comprising:

a platform on which the a wheelchair is arranged to be received;

a platform support~~[[;]]~~ comprising two parallel arms each of which has a longitudinal channel therein;

two lifting mechanisms each of which is supported within the channel of a respective one of the arms of the platform support

a frame;

the frame having thereon mounting members for attachment to an underside of the automobile arranged to support the frame on the ~~vehicle~~ automobile with the frame horizontal and generally transverse to a length of the vehicle;

the platform support being movable while supported on the frame in a generally horizontal plane from a retracted transport position underneath the automobile to an extended operating position projecting outwardly to one side of the automobile;

the platform being mounted on the ~~platform support~~ lifting mechanisms for movement relative ~~thereto~~ to the platform support, with the platform support in the extended operating position, upwardly and downwardly ~~from between~~ and a lowered mounting position of the platform in which the wheelchair can enter onto the platform ~~to~~ and a raised entry position in which the wheelchair can move from the platform onto a floor of the automobile.

2.(currently amended)The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the ~~platform is carried on~~ lifting mechanisms comprise parallel levers each of which has one end pivotally attached to the platform and the other end pivotally attached to the platform support and which is actuated by pulling one or more of the levers by one or more actuators carried in one or more channels of the arms of ~~on~~ the platform support.

3.(original) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the platform

support is arranged such that it can slide into a hollow interior of the frame.

4.(currently amended)The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the platform support and the frame are generally rectangular in ~~plan~~ shape with front and rear edges parallel and at right angles to the length of the automobile.

5.(original) The apparatus according to Claim 4 wherein the platform has front and rear edges arranged at the front and rear edges of the platform support.

6.(original) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the frame comprises a hollow container within which the platform and platform support can be received.

7.(original) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the frame defines a depth on the automobile such that it is retained on the vehicle underneath the vehicle during travel and wherein the platform and platform support are contained within the depth of the frame.

8.(currently amended)The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein ~~movement of the platform relative to the platform support is effected by~~ the lifting mechanisms comprise one or more actuators which are received in one or more channels of the arms of the platform support so as to extend ~~along the platform support~~ therealong parallel to the direction of sliding movement of the platform support.

9.(currently amended)The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein ~~movement of the platform relative to the platform support is effected by~~ the lifting mechanisms comprise one or more elongate actuators which are received in one or more channels of the arms of the platform support so as to extend ~~along the platform support~~ therealong in a plane generally parallel to the plane of the platform.

10.(original) The apparatus according to Claim 9 wherein the actuators comprise cylinders.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 9 wherein the ~~platform is carried on~~ lifting mechanisms comprise parallel levers each of which has one end

pivotally attached to the platform and the other end pivotally attached to the platform support and which is actuated by pulling one or more of the levers by the one or more actuators carried in one or more channels of the arms of ~~on~~ the platform support and wherein each actuator pulls a chain portion which passes over an arc member at a base of a respective one of the levers.

12. (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the frame includes a pair of parallel spaced rails extending at right angles to the length of the automobile and wherein the ~~platform support comprising a pair of parallel arms of the platform support are~~ each arranged along a respective one of the rails and slidable therealong.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 12 wherein the ~~platform is carried on two~~ each lifting mechanism comprises a pair of parallel levers with each pair arranged on a respective one of the arms.

14. (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 13 wherein the ~~platform is raised and lowered by each lifting mechanism comprises a pair of an actuator~~ actuators each arranged to extend along a respective one of the arms and operable to pull on a respective one of the levers.

15. (original) The apparatus according to Claim 14 wherein the actuators comprise cylinders.

16. (original) The apparatus according to Claim 14 wherein each actuator pulls a chain portion which passes over an arc member at a base of a respective one of the levers.

17. (original) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the platform can be lowered to a height below that of the platform support and raised to a height above the platform support.

18. (original) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the platform and platform support are carried wholly by the frame so as to be cantilevered in use from the side

of the automobile.

19.(new) A wheelchair lift apparatus for attachment to an automobile comprising:

a platform on which the wheelchair is arranged to be received;

a platform support;

a frame;

the frame having thereon mounting members for attachment to an underside of the automobile arranged to support the frame on the vehicle with the frame horizontal and generally transverse to a length of the vehicle;

the platform support being movable while supported on the frame in a generally horizontal plane from a retracted transport position underneath the automobile to an extended operating position projecting outwardly to one side of the automobile;

the platform being mounted on the platform support for movement relative thereto, with the platform support in the extended operating position, upwardly and downwardly between a lowered mounting position of the platform in which the wheelchair can enter onto the platform and a raised entry position in which the wheelchair can move from the platform onto a floor of the automobile[.];

wherein the frame comprises a hollow container within which the platform and platform support can be received.

20.(new) The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein there is provided a pivotal end plate extending across the platform support at an end of the platform support opposite the automobile in the extended operating position, the pivotal end plate supported on the platform support for pivotal motion between a generally horizontal open position and a generally vertical closed position, wherein movement of the cross member to the closed position with the platform support in the retracted transport position closes the hollow container with the platform and platform support located therein.